



National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, Florida



SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020

Saturday December 5, 2020

The National Weather Service has SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD 2020) scheduled this year on Saturday, December 5th from 1 pm through about 5 pm. However...due to COVID-19 restrictions the event will be conducted online. Unfortunately there will be no amateur radio operations at weather service offices.

Here at the Tampa Bay Area office in Ruskin we will be monitoring and posting to Facebook and Twitter (#Skywarn20) throughout the afternoon of the 5th. In addition, the NI4CE repeater system will be activated for amateur radio operators.

WHAT IS SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY?

An annual event to recognize SKYWARN storm spotters around the U.S. begins at 7 pm. EST Friday, Dec. 4. SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) is traditionally a 24-hour on-the-air amateur radio special event, because hams were the first SKYWARN storm spotters. In past years, volunteer hams activated special event stations at NWS forecast offices, using club call signs assigned to those offices (e.g. WX4TOR for the Tampa Bay Area, FL Office). Other hams attempted to contact as many different NWS offices as possible.



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This year, however, SKYWARN Recognition Day will have a slightly different look.

First, few weather office club call signs will be activated because the National Weather Service is prohibiting volunteer access to the offices.

Second, in lieu of trying to contact as many weather offices as possible, NWS is encouraging amateur radio participants to register for and exchange SRD numbers with each other.

Third, because a growing number of SKYWARN storm spotters use social media instead of ham radio to report severe weather, this year's SRD will have a greater social media emphasis.

SRD Numbers

The NWS will issue to all registrants a number to be used during SRD contacts. This is *not* a spotter ID number for use during severe weather events, **it's for the 2020 SRD only**. Each number will include the three-letter ID of the registrant's nearest NWS forecast office. For example, a TBW spotter's SRD 2020 number might turn out to be "TBW-123".

Anyone, including people who are not licensed hams, may register for an SRD number by visiting

<https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

and clicking on the link near the top that reads, "SKYWARN™ Registration Form."



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If you have any question please contact;

Rudy/KE4EXL at richard.rude@noaa.gov

Links with additional information:

<https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

<http://www.arrl.org/news-features>

<http://www.weather.gov/tbw/wx4tor>